

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

Bill # **1017**: An Act Concerning Election Administration.

Bill # **6578**: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

Thank you for all you did this year to protect our right to vote. Please continue to make voting easy, convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting

- 1) **YES in SUPPORT** of bill number **1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application and
- 2) **YES in SUPPORT** of bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

It is clear from the record high participation rate in the last election that absentee voting for all along with the drop boxes made voting convenient and safe and were very important to voters in Connecticut. Nearly 35% of the population chose to vote by Absentee Ballot while those who wanted to vote in person were still able to do so. We need to keep these in place plus make applying for an absentee ballot less expensive and easier via an online application. So many other states have all these voting measures in place already. Please vote to have CT join them.

Many states have automatic voter registration where eligible voters are automatically registered to vote at DMV and other government organizations. Our goal should be to get as many eligible voters as possible registered so that they can fully participate in our democracy and exercise their civic duty of voting. That should include parolees who have already served their time and should have their voting rights restored.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bonita Messman

Westport, CT 06880